

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING *NOTES*  
OCTOBER 12, 2006

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,  
Chairman  
\*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage  
\* Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way  
\*Paige Garrett, Glendale Human Services  
Council  
Jayson Matthews for Kate Hanley, Tempe  
Community Council  
\*Connie James, City of Scottsdale  
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area  
Agency on Aging  
\*Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County  
\*Joy McClain, City of Tolleson  
\*Joyce Lopez-Powell, VSUW  
\*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
\*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix  
\*Sandra Mendez, DES/CSA  
\* Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF  
Carol Sherer for Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD  
Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community  
Network

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale  
\*Judy Tapscott, City of  
Tempe  
\*Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, Vice  
Chair  
Jessica Ponzio for Patrick  
Tyrrell, City of Chandler  
Neal Young, City of Phoenix

OTHERS PRESENT

Wendell Akers, DES  
Lindsay Fitzgibbons, DES  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Nancy Sanchez, MAG  
Michael Shaffer, DES

*+Those members present by  
audio/videoconferencing.*

*\*Those members neither present nor  
represented by proxy.*

1. Open Meeting for Discussion  
Chairman Carl Harris- Morgan, Town of Gilbert, welcomed everyone to the meeting  
at 1:10 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience  
No comments were made.
3. Approval of September 14, 2006 Human Services Technical Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
Chairman Harris-Morgan informed the committee that quorum had not been met and  
approval of the September 14, 2006 meeting minutes will be held over till the next  
meeting.

4. Presentation from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)

Chairman Harris-Morgan introduced Carol Sherer from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) who provided a presentation on utilization of SSBG funds in the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Sherer began by stating the Division is made up of six districts and serves 25,000 people statewide. District One serves 16,000 people in Maricopa County. A number of these people are not eligible for Title 19 and receive minimal support. Other funding sources are used to supplement their services. The Division purchases services for their clients. Clients that are eligible for Title 19 are required to receive services. If they are not eligible for Title 19, they will only receive case management services. When other funds supplement these clients, they do receive other services.

Ms. Sherer continued that the district is divided into geographic areas. The East and West service units serve those areas of the county. A special services unit offers early intervention services. These services are funded through AZIP or Title 19. DD foster care does not remove children from homes. When CPS removes a child, this unit offers services to them if they have developmental disabilities. The behavioral health unit offers services to clients who are dually diagnosed. They receive the most intense services through partnerships with ValueOptions for mental health services. There are more individuals than the unit can serve. An employment services unit provides ongoing services after a client has been through Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Their new premier unit serves individuals who are over age 50 with developmental disabilities. Documentation indicates that many people with Downs Syndrome develop Alzheimer's earlier than other people. This often goes undiagnosed due to the low cognitive ability of the client.

All people served under Title 19 or other supplemental funding can receive attendant care to help with basic self care activities. Some of these individuals may work in the community but still need some assistance. Day treatment services for children offers social and recreational opportunities. This supports the parents as well when they are employed outside the home. Day treatment for adults offers employment services to help them move into gainful employment. Employment services offer sheltered workshops with specific outcomes including improvement in wages. There is a new effort to have more individuals in community based employment. Group based employment services help clients to work in the community in a variety of jobs. Goals include community integration and normalized employment activities. Individual supported employment services help clients in mainstream employment with job coaching. They are working independently at competitive wages. Client support aide services receive assistance on a long-term basis without a job coach. If that client received a promotion, then the job coach would return to help with the additional services.

Employment related transportation is a new service. Many clients use natural supports whenever possible but many are not able to access appropriate transportation. DDD pays for transportation for group and individual supported employment and this has been a big benefit. Respite services are provided to give the primary caregiver a

break. Families can use this service for vacations or dates. This keeps families from going into crisis. Group home services are also provided when it is no longer appropriate for the client to remain in their own home. These environments are normalized as much as possible. Home alternatives offer a co-op option when DDD pays individuals to live in their own home with other people as supports. It typically takes a roommate to share expenses with the client.

Ms. Sherer said Arizona leads the nation with more people living in community residential settings as opposed to institutions. She said they are always looking for innovative ways to keep people in their own homes. DDD also provides cleaning services to assist people in their own homes. Team based programs look at the whole person to decide what services will best meet the client's needs. Title 19 clients receive mandated services. Clients without this funding source do not receive mandated services.

Locally planned SSBG dollars supported 1,812 clients receive services last year. Their clients are developing self-esteem, working at a job and paying taxes. This is a significant accomplishment. A number of individuals also receive group supported employment services.

Ms. Sherer relayed a story about her son Todd. They adopted him when he was four and a half months old. He was developmentally disabled due to seizure related brain damage. He has participated in services and learned to work. He is now 33 years old. There was a huge waiting list years ago for employment services so he participated in a day treatment program instead. He had extreme behaviors when placed in a job because there was a five year lapse between the time that he graduated from school and the time that he could receive employment services. Ms. Sherer said she doesn't want other parents to go through what they have experienced due to limited funding.

She continued with a story that showed the benefits of funding services. Ms. Sherer discussed a man who had a wheelchair but faced problems with securing employment. He received employment services and secured a job at Intel. After awhile, he earned the respect of his supervisors and received a promotion and no longer needed services. She said the services cost \$4,000 and another \$6,000 to receive attendant care. He now earns \$110,000 a year thanks to these services and this investment. She said this is a great example of how SSBG can be used to help people.

Ms. Sherer said there was a couple whose husband was Title 19 eligible but his wife was not. They lived in a non-accessible apartment. Both needed assistance. Within six weeks of receiving services, they were moved into an accessible apartment with appropriate care. Housekeeping services were provided for both thanks to supplemental funding.

Chair Harris-Morgan asked about the waiting lists. Ms. Sherer said the length of the lists depends on the generosity of the legislature. Some people have been waiting for more than two years for services. Waits for residential services are even longer,

especially for clients over the age of 50. This need will increase as the population ages. Many are not Title 19 eligible for various reasons. The higher functioning individuals often do not receive services because they are more often not Title 19 eligible.

Chair Harris-Morgan thanked Ms. Sherer for her presentation and introduced Jim Knaut to offer information about agencies that subcontract with the Area Agency on Aging. He handed out information with detail about these awards. Ms. Knaut said that a number of sites can offer an individual service. The administrative sites therefore may not always reflect the full service delivery area. He said they are very appreciative of the funding received through locally planned SSBG dollars. Mr. Knaut continued that adult day care is a very important service for the caregivers and the clients. Support groups help as well. A young adult program is a separate program that provides assistance. Congregate meals offer socialization opportunities as well as nutritious meals. Supportive intervention and guidance counseling is targeted at crisis intervention services for 90 days and less. Three agencies offer this service. Home delivered meal programs are well known and provides nutritionally balanced meals and wellness checks.

Mr. Knaut continued with the transportation component is supplemented with other funding. The funds are used to purchase transportation through Dial-A-Ride or the bus system. Home care services include nursing, home health care, personal care and others. A number of providers offer an array of services. Mr. Knaut said they are proud of their partners and the services that are delivered.

5. Update on Efforts to Support Social Service Block Grant Funding

Ms. St. Peter explained that the request from this Committee to support level funding for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) was approved by the MAG Regional Council. She reported that a letter from the Regional Council would be sent to Congress. Specifically, the letter will be sent to the two budget chairs, the two appropriation committee chairs, the Health and Human Services Secretary with copies of the letter being sent to Arizona's congressional delegation. Ms. St. Peter said Congress is unlikely to take action on this item until after the elections. She said the letter would include suggestions from the Committee at a previous meeting including the importance of SSBG as a flexible funding source that supports vital programs. The letter may also address as much as possible the impact of the potential funding cut with quantifiable information.

Jayson Matthews recommended focusing on the negative impact of the potential funding cuts on vulnerable clients like seniors and people with developmental disabilities. Sandra Reagan suggested talking about the cooperation of all the cities and the positive impact of coming together in one cause. She added it is also important to talk about the size of Maricopa County. Mr. Matthews said it would also be good to take a statewide approach if possible and to reference the impacts statewide.

Ms. St. Peter thanked the Committee for taking this issue on especially since SSBG doesn't have a natural constituency base like other funding sources.

6. MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Update

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Maureen DeCindis, MAG, who presented information on the efforts to develop a human services transportation plan to coordinate services in response to new SAEFTEA-LU regulations and the Arizona Rides initiative. Ms. DeCindis offered a handout about efforts to develop a plan that will coordinate human services transportation to be in compliance with these new federal regulations. She stated that MAG is working with an excellent consultant to develop strategies to achieve this goal. She invited Committee members to offer their ideas. She reviewed the coordination strategies that have been discussed by the stakeholder group. These include a coordination policy agreement, trip brokerage, a centralized call center, regional networks and countywide consolidation. Ms. DeCindis said the group has reviewed these options and offered their comments. The consultant will next lead a discussion about implementation of these strategies.

Mr. Knaut asked about the political ramifications of the coordination strategies. Ms. DeCindis said the funding attached to this plan cannot be accessed until the plan is adopted. It will be important to start small and build community support for more intensive efforts. Chair Harris-Morgan said the plan is required but asked if implementation is required. Ms. St. Peter said implementation is required. She continued that the federal government has not given much guidance about the plan or implementation.

Sandra Reagan asked if the group has researched other efforts. Ms DeCindis said we have done research and has presented best practices from other communities. She said MAG is actually ahead of other regions in the planning process. She invited the Committee members to the next meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2006.

7. 2007 Regional Human Services Retreat Update

Chair Harris-Morgan invited Ms. St. Peter to provide the Committee with an update on planning the 2007 Regional Human Services Retreat. Ms. St. Peter said the MAG human services committees are in the process of identifying a collaboration that exemplifies their work. The collaborations will be featured in a video at the beginning of the retreat. Ms. St. Peter said the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness has chosen the Human Services Campus and the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council will focus on capacity building through fundraising and research. This Committee talked about using the Earned Income Tax Credit Program or the West Valley Human Services Alliance at a previous meeting.

Discussion ensued about these choices. Ms. Reagan said both are strong recommendations with good results. EITC has some very good figures that show impressive results that impact people's lives. The Alliance has a lot of progressive activities that promote human services. Jayson Matthews offered support for Ms. Reagan's comments because EITC and the Alliance both are prominent. He

suggested the Committee weigh the benefits of going into detail with one project or showing the breadth of more examples. Chair Harris-Morgan asked each Committee member for feedback. Ms. Reagan said both projects offer a timeframe from a project that is mature and has solid results to a newer project like the Alliance.

Ms. St. Peter said the video will be fairly short with each Committee presenting information within five minutes. With this in mind, it might be good to focus on one of the two projects. Mr. Knaut said he supported both programs but thought EITC had more results to show. Mr. Young, Ms. Jonovich and Ms. Sheffield also supported EITC. Chair Harris-Morgan said the consensus seemed to be for EITC. Ms. St. Peter thanked the Committee and said she would report back for more detail about the video content.

8. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Nancy Sanchez, ASU, who is presently interning for MAG to provide an update on the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) and other activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ms. St. Peter said Ms. Sanchez is MAG's first intern from ASU in the Human Services Division. She thanked ASU for providing this opportunity and thanked Ms. Sanchez for her hard work on this project.

Ms. Sanchez stated that the YEP project is a collaboration between the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council and the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee's Youth Policy Stakeholders Group. The project was launched on September 28, 2006 and entries for the public service announcement are due by January 2, 2007. Ms. Sanchez asked the Committee members for help promoting the PSA competition and stated that she is able to give presentations on the topic. She referred the Committee to the [weboffriends.org](http://weboffriends.org) website for more information including resource lists and transcript from the live web chat. Ms. St. Peter thanked the Governor's Office and ValueOptions for their support of the project.

Ms. Sanchez said the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence has a calendar of events to promote Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities. She reviewed some of the events over the next few weeks.

9. Announcements

No announcements were made at this time.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Cholla Room.